

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

*Published by the Information Department  
of THE AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL*

509 FIFTH AVENUE · NEW YORK 17, N. Y. · TELEPHONE: MURRAY HILL 7-4766

VOL. II, # 9

May 20, 1949

**AUSTRIAN TREATY TALKS SUSPENDED.** After completing their recent exhaustive review of eighteen unsettled articles out of a total of fifty-three in the treaty draft, the Foreign Ministers' Deputies, on May 10th, agreed to suspend their discussions and to resume them not later than June 25th. This new suspension which will allow each delegate to report to his Government was proposed by Mr. Samuel Reber, the U.S. Delegate, in view of the impending Paris Conference of the Council of Foreign Ministers. If, at the insistence of the Austrian Government, the Austrian Treaty should be taken up by the Foreign Ministers in Paris, it is believed that all Deputies of the Big Four Powers would go to the Conference to advise their Foreign Ministers.

Dr. Karl Gruber, Austria's Foreign Minister, arrived in Paris on May 11th in order to urge the inclusion of the Austrian Treaty on the agenda of the Foreign Ministers' Conference.

**AUSTRIA PROTESTS AGAINST CONTINUED OCCUPATION.** On May 11th, the Austrian Parliament unanimously appealed to the Big Four to end the military occupation of Austria and give the country its long overdue State Treaty. A resolution by the People's and the Austrian Socialist Parties, which control 95 per cent of the electorate, instructed Chancellor Leopold Figl "to take all steps necessary to assure that the scheduled Foreign Ministers' Conference in Paris deal with the Austrian Treaty."

At a recent rally of the Austrian People's Party in Vienna, Federal Chancellor Leopold Figl demanded that the Foreign Ministers of the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union discuss the Austrian question during their forthcoming conference. These were Chancellor Figl's words: "If we are already being denied the right to participate in the London State Treaty negotiations as equal partners, and - what is more, - if in these times of a new declaration of the rights of man, it is thought necessary to exclude the Austrian people from the deliberations concerning its own future destiny, we shall at least not surrender our right to freely and repeatedly express our judgment on so shameful discrepancy between international theory and practice. Should the London treaty negotiations remain inconclusive, we shall demand that the four Foreign Ministers not only place the Austrian question on the agenda of their next conference, but that they give it a high priority. We shall insist that the Austrian question be discussed."

Foreign Minister Dr. Karl Gruber warned that if necessary, "we shall call upon the people themselves to give emphatic expression to their will in this matter". "The continued presence of foreign divisions in combat formation on Austrian territory four years after the end of the war gives the impression of armed aggression", Dr. Gruber said. "We don't intend to watch calmly while this process of digging in goes on in Austria."

**SOCIALISTS DEMAND REVISION OF CONTROL AGREEMENT.** The Executive Committee of the Austrian Socialist Party, in a resolution unanimously adopted at the end of April, has demanded that the Control Agreement of June 28, 1946 be amended to allow greater freedom of action to the Austrian Government. The Socialist News Service reports that the resolution invoked the Moscow Declaration of November 1, 1943, the solemn statements made by the Allied commanders in April 1945 and similar promises, to point out the marked contrast between these and the fact that, four years after the end of the war, Austria was still occupied and her national life subject to interference by the allied military administrations. The resolution went on to declare that an important part of Austria's natural resources and mineral wealth was in foreign hands, that a not inconsiderable portion of her industry and agriculture was being detained outside the range of her national economy, that the costs of occupation were endangering her budget, that her nationals were still being arrested, mistreated and deported, that censorship regulations were suppressing freedom of speech in violation of the Austrian Constitution and, finally, that the Austrian

pe  
the  
pro

cou  
to  
the  
all  
ag  
bee

men  
fer  
nes  
reg  
als  
dem  
cou  
pat  
pat

NEW  
has  
V.

AUS  
not  
aga  
of  
on  
bet  
kgs  
Bul  
no  
quo

PRO  
Cour  
cor  
ern  
the  
est  
194

PRO  
Sal  
for  
Cour  
tee  
"Be  
the  
unde  
hand  
haen  
From

FOR  
from  
Hel  
to p  
poss  
with  
Inte  
stat  
reco  
vio  
tion  
in t  
Hel  
meet

PRES  
cor  
Rem



5/20/49

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-2

people's freedom of action was being restricted to such an extent that the sovereignty and independence promised Austria was just as much a promise today as it had been then.

The party's central committee concluded that since the situation could not continue along these lines and since Austria's people wanted to live, the Socialist Party insists on immediate relief by amending the Control Agreement. It pointed out that Article 14 of the Inter-allied Agreement of June 28, 1946 provides for a revision of the agreement at the end of six months and that since the agreement has been in force for already 30 months, its amendment is long overdue.

The Socialist Party resolution demanded that the Control Agreement be amended along the following lines: that all foreign interference with Austria's administration cease; all enterprises and business concerns in Austria be subject exclusively to Austrian laws and regulations; censorship be abolished, not only in press matters, but also in postal, radio, telephone and telegraph communications; zonal demarcation lines be dropped and Austrians be tried only in Austrian courts and by Austrian judges; and finally, that the military occupation forces be immediately reduced to such an extent that the occupation be limited to one in name only.

NEW SOVIET HIGH COMMISSIONER IN AUSTRIA. General Vladimir Kurasow has been replaced as Soviet High Commissioner in Austria by Col. Gen. V. P. Sviridov, it was learned on May 4th in Vienna.

AUSTRIAN PROTEST NOTE TO BULGARIA. The Austrian Government sent a note of protest to the legation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria against the latter's violation of the Austro-Bulgarian trade treaty of December 17, 1948, according to an official communiqué released on May 3d. Austrian authorities have ascertained that in the period between 1, 1948 and March 31, 1949, 304,570 kgs cigarettes, 278,090 kgs grape wine and 72,880 kgs brandy were imported into Austria from Bulgaria, although the trade treaty between the two countries makes no mention whatsoever of cigarette, grape wine or brandy import quotas.

PROPERTY OF FORMER GAULEITER CONFISCATED. A senate of the People's Court in Vienna handed down a decision at the beginning of May according to which the property of the former Gauleiter and Nazi Governor of Vienna, Josef Buerckel, is to be confiscated. The estate of the Nazi leader who died in the last year of the war consisted in real estate property totalling 15,000 sq. meters which he had acquired in 1940 at the sham price of 50 pfennig per square meter.

PRO-NAZI PUBLICATION SUSPENDED. The Wiener Kurier reports that the Salzburg publication "Berichte und Informationen" has been suspended for a thirty-day period by the Executive Committee of the Allied Council, at the request of the American representative on the Committee, because of its continued publication of pro-Nazi articles. The "Berichte und Informationen" is a weekly published since May 1946 by the "Austrian Research Institute for Economic and Political Questions" under its director Dr. H.A. Kraus. The latter recently took a leading hand in establishing the "Union of Independents" ("Verband der Unabhngigen") whose political mouthpiece is the weekly organ "Neue Front".

FORMATION OF NEW PARTIES. At a meeting of Socialist party officials from the district of Wiener Neustadt, Minister of the Interior Oskar Helmer declared on April 30th that there was no basis in Austrian law to prohibit the formation of new political parties. Every Austrian possessed of his political rights is free to form political parties without recourse to any formalities whatsoever. The Ministry of the Interior and the other responsible Austrian authorities, Mr. Helmer stated, would take cognizance of the activities of all parties and recognize their existence, in so far as these activities did not violate the criminal code. Likewise, all interdictions and restrictions imposed on political parties heretofore would be null and void in the future. According to the Socialist News Service, Minister Helmer concluded with the belief that these regulations would also meet with the full understanding of the occupation powers.

PRESIDENT RENNER ON THE ELECTIONS. In an interview with a special correspondent of the "Tribune de Genve", Federal President Dr. Karl Renner made the following statement in connection with the forthcoming

5/2

ele  
tim  
cup  
wil  
of  
ty,  
all  
of  
all  
Aus  
one

NEW  
Aus  
leg  
in  
of  
who  
Rei  
arr

MIN  
Jus  
tha  
ped  
tio  
of  
say  
ty,  
cri  
do  
unt  
wor

PRE  
tel  
on  
Har  
niz  
tha  
rec  
and

THE  
In  
ria  
Fir  
org  
Kin  
Mar  
tio  
nat  
raw  
plo  
Mr.

NEW  
pro  
cid  
cre  
far

to  
lio  
cau  
gra  
lar  
by

of  
gro  
A T  
Par  
bat



elections in Austria: "It is difficult to make any predictions at this time. We do not even know what parties will be authorized by the occupation powers to enter candidates and how many such parties there will be. But one thing seems certain to me: although a certain shift of votes to the left or to the right is within the realm of possibility, such a shift will not be large in scope. As far as I am personally concerned, I entertain the positive hope that the representatives of democracy will continue to work together even in the new political alignment". Dr. Renner then added: "to consolidate democracy in Austria and to anchor it in an unshakeable foundation, we need but one single thing: that other countries leave us in peace".

NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR FOR LOWER AUSTRIA. The Governor of Lower Austria, Josef Reither, who has been a member of the Lower Austrian legislative assembly since 1921 and whose first term as Governor began in 1931, resigned his position for reasons of health at the beginning of May. He will be succeeded by Provincial Deputy Johann Steinboeck, who has been the state's food commissioner. In March 1938, Josef Reither was interned in Dachau by the Nazis, and in 1944 he was again arrested and brought to the Gestapo prison in Berlin.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE URGES SPEEDIER COURT ACTION. Federal Minister of Justice, Dr. Joseph Geroe urged speedier court action and emphasized that restitution proceedings especially should be handled more expeditiously, in a speech he delivered at the second Austrian convention of judges in Graz. He pointed out that only 7000 out of a total of 18,000 restitution cases had been completed so far. He went on to say that slow action on the part of the courts, especially in liability, liquidation and property contestation cases, had caused adverse criticism. Dr. Geroe concluded by appealing to Austria's judges to do everything in their power to catch up quickly on the backlog of untried cases, despite the fact that the courts are presently overworked.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN PRAISES AUSTRIAN RECONSTRUCTION. In reply to the telegram of congratulations he received from the Austrian Government on the occasion of the Marshall Plan's first anniversary, President Harry S. Truman voiced the great satisfaction with which he took cognizance of Austria's constant progress and expressed his conviction that the people of Austria would bring to a successful conclusion the reconstruction efforts which they were carrying out with so much hope and efficiency under the difficult conditions of the occupation.

THE E.C.A. AND AUSTRIAN LABOR. Clyde N. King, head of the ECA mission in Austria, sent a letter of salutation to the president of the Austrian Federation of Labor, Deputy Johann Boehm, on the occasion of the First of May, in which he paid tribute to the cooperation of Austrian organized labor in the reconstruction of its country. "I know", Mr. King's letter stated, "that the help we can give Austria through the Marshall Plan can be made fully effective only by the willing cooperation of Austrian labor. The danger of unemployment has been eliminated thanks to the operation of the Marshall Plan and the supply of raw materials to industry. The increase in production means full employment and an improvement in the standard of living of the workers", Mr. King concluded.

NEW WAGE AND PRICE AGREEMENT. On May 10th, the Austrian Cabinet approved a new wage-price agreement raising wages and prices, and decided to discontinue subsidies for wheat, coal and sugar, and increase gas and electricity rates as well as railroad and streetcar fares.

The object of the agreement reached by the two major parties is to wipe out a deficit of more than two billion schillings (\$200 million at the official rate of exchange) in the Austrian budget, caused by the high cost of the continued Allied occupation, by the granting of a 13th month of pay to civil service employees, by the large deficit of the federal railroads and postal service and finally by the considerably reduced receipts from the tobacco tax.

The new agreement was made palatable to labor by a wage increase of slightly more than 9 percent and by exempting the lowest-income groups from the 20 percent increase in income taxes.

A THIRTEENTH MONTH OF PAY FOR CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES. The Austrian Parliament which opened its Spring Session on May 11th will soon debate a Government-sponsored bill granting a 13th month of pay to all

[Faint, mostly illegible text covering the main body of the page, appearing to be a typed document with multiple paragraphs.]

fe  
mo  
Ju  
ci  
of  
ad  
se  
tr  
Ma  
be  
se  
li  
ma  
cl  
a  
th  
ne  
mo  
pe  
av  
To  
pr  
in

AUS  
Au  
mi  
Th  
es  
in  
ce  
es  
ra  
sch  
yi  
ti  
ce  
ta  
re  
th  
an  
ti  
sch  
25  
li  
li  
tra  
tha

AUS  
inc  
tot  
tha  
ll  
Aus  
imp  
ria  
goo  
Ger  
on  
am  
woo  
Sta  
Alm  
mil  
sch

61.  
pul  
Aus  
cou  
Fre  
for  
mil



5/20/49

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-4

federal and other civil service employees for the current year. This month's bonus is to be paid in two instalments, the first presumably on July 1st and the second on December 1st. Representatives of Austria's civil service employees have repeatedly complained that since the end of the war the salaries of public employees have not even been broadly adjusted to the increase in the cost of living and that most civil service salaries have trailed behind the average wages paid to industrial and farm workers. According to a report which appeared in the March issue of "Arbeit und Wirtschaft", the organ of the Austrian Chamber of Labor and the Austrian Federation of Labor, 60% of all civil service employees now have a monthly net income of less than 690 schillings. (This amount represented the minimum monthly requirement for a married couple, in November 1948). Such a salary is reached by high-classified functionaries only after 6 years of service; an employee in a medium job classification must put in 26 years of service to reach this salary; and an employee with an auxiliary classification can never attain it at all. In April 1945, a married couple needed a monthly net income of 160 reichsmark to meet its minimum living expenses; in 1937, such a couple required 188 schillings. In 1937, the average gross salary of a public servant amounted to 320 schillings. Today his average gross salary is 690 schillings, whereas the retail price index at the end of 1948 amounted to 349 (with 100 as the index in March 1938).

AUSTRIAN STATE INCOME PAYMENTS. According to a report released by the Austrian National Bank, the Federal Government collected about 611.3 million schillings in direct taxes during the first quarter of 1949. This amount is some 164.8 million schillings greater than the amount estimated in the 1949 Federal Budget. The 249.4 million schillings in income taxes exceeded by about 99.4 millions the anticipated receipts and the 107.2 million schillings in trades taxes exceeded the estimated income from this source by some 52.2 millions. The corporation profits tax, during the same period, amounted to 60.1 million schillings, or 35.1 millions more than had been expected; property tax yielded 15.2 million schillings or 221,000 schillings more than anticipated; and the 4.7 millions derived from other direct taxes exceeded estimates by 3.3 millions. On the other hand, the employment tax receipts of 174.7 million schillings partly offset these favorable returns by falling 25.3 millions short of the estimated income from this source. The turnover or transaction tax yielding 243.8 millions and customs duties totalling 24.1 millions were also behind expectations, the former by 6.2 million schillings and the latter by 867,000 schillings. The income from excise taxes (consumer taxes) totalled 259.6 million schillings, but fell short of the estimate by 139.4 millions. Of these, the tobacco tax alone amounted to 212 million schillings (113 millions short). Government fiscal fees and property-transfer duties amounted to 74 million schillings, 3 millions more than estimated in the federal budget.

AUSTRIA'S FOREIGN TRADE ON THE INCREASE. Austria's foreign trade is increasing steadily from month to month. In February of this year, total imports had reached 294 million schillings, or 28 millions more than the month before; exports totalled 235 million schillings, or 11 millions more than in January. Particularly worthy of note is Austria's trade with Italy which, next to Germany, lead the list of importers with merchandise valued at 47.5 million schillings. Austria's major imports from Italy are tropical fruit, spun silk, silk goods and iron products. As usual, most of the articles imported from Germany consisted of mineral fuels, iron products and machinery. Third on the list of imports in February was Great Britain with imports amounting to 24.2 million schillings, 9.6 millions of which were for wool. Not inconsiderable were likewise the imports from the United States which, for the same month, amounted to 23.4 million schillings. Almost half of the imports from Czechoslovakia, which totalled 21.7 million schillings, were for fuels; those from Poland (7.3 million schillings) consisted almost exclusively of coal.

Exports to Italy in February 1949 reached the record amount of 61.8 million schillings. These consisted primarily of wood, paper pulp, paper, pig iron and iron products. During the same month, Austria exported as much merchandise to Italy as to the next five countries -- Yugoslavia, Germany, Great Britain, Switzerland and France -- combined. Yugoslavia was second on the list of Austria's foreign clients with exports to that country in the amount of 13.6 million schillings. Germany was third with 13.5 millions. Most

[Faint, mostly illegible text covering the main body of the page, appearing to be a letter or report.]

5/  
no  
ot  
of  
ru  
of  
19  
pr  
AU  
su  
vo  
re  
fo  
ac  
36  
3  
du  
ti  
NE  
re  
Au  
pr  
so  
mo  
po  
be  
ne  
me  
ac  
wh  
of  
ne  
re  
th  
RE  
ou  
re  
am  
ra  
be  
he  
Br  
ou  
an  
IN  
Au  
20  
la  
wi  
la  
le  
st  
AUS  
pu  
si  
ti  
ti  
wi  
Eg  
fe  
ti  
NE  
is  
to  
Ge  
ca  
of  
is



noteworthy of Austria's exports to Yugoslavia were iron goods. Another gratifying feature of Austria's foreign trade was the increase of her exports to Egypt which totalled 11 million schillings in February. The major portion of this amount was in payment for nitrate of lime and ammonia. Exports to Poland, which were very limited in 1948, rose to 10 million schillings, in February 1949 and consisted primarily of motor vehicles and iron products.

AUSTRIA'S PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST LAND. Austria's total surface area amounts to 20,395,978 acres of which about 50% are devoted to agriculture and 37% to forestry with the remaining 13% representing unproductive land. The surveys conducted in 1948 give the following picture (all figures in hectares -- 1 hectare equals 2.47 acres): arable land: 1,744,988; meadow-land: 1,026,188; pasture land: 368,978; Alpine grassland: 894,328; hayfields: 26,388; vineyards: 36,836; garden land: 26,410; orchards: 30,532; nurseries: 951; productive agricultural land: 4,155,599; woodland: 3,061,094; unproductive land and water: 1,040,788.

NEW AUSTRIAN OIL DEPOSITS DISCOVERED. New petroleum deposits have recently been discovered in the area of Matzen im Marchfeld (Lower Austria), according to several reports appearing in the Austrian press. The oil stratum unearthed is said in technical circles to be so rich that its rational exploitation can, in a few months time, yield more than 100 tons per day. Initial analyses of the Matzen oil deposits have shown that it is qualitatively on a par with Austria's best petroleum resources.

For the time being, there are no reliable official data on these new oil fields because the latter are also under Russian USIA management, despite the fact that they were unknown before this year and, accordingly, bear no relation whatsoever to the Zisterdorf oil fields which the Russians have requisitioned as German property. This state of affairs prompted a member of the Austrian Parliament, Deputy Mueller, to remark that under present circumstances Austria's mineral resources have turned out to be a curse, whereas, in other countries, the discovery of new mineral deposits is greeted with satisfaction.

RECORD IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION SOLD OUT MONTHS IN ADVANCE. The output of the United Austrian Iron and Steel Works in Linz reached record proportions in March of this year. The production of pig iron amounted to some 40,000 tons. Despite this record output, the corporation's pig iron production for the next five months has already been sold, thanks to the recently approved sale of 60,000 tons of hematite pig iron and 23,000 tons of open-hearth pig iron to the British economic area in Southeastern Asia. The present monthly output of sheet metal of every type amounts to 7000 tons and the balance of this year's entire production has already been sold.

INCREASE IN AUSTRIAN TIMBER EXPORTS. Exports of sawed softwoods from Austria during the first two months of this year increased from 20,000 to 134,000 cubic meters, or almost sevenfold, as compared to last year's exports for the same period. Italy led all other buyers with 71.1% of the quantities exported, the remainder going to Switzerland, Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Greece and the Netherlands. The leading exporter of sawed timber is Carinthia (34.4%), followed by the states of Styria (20.1%), Tyrol (15.5%) and Salzburg (13.3%).

AUSTRIAN NITROGEN EXPORTS. The Linz Nitrogen Works, whose total output of fertilizer for this year is practically all sold, have recently signed a contract for the delivery of an additional 15,000 tons of fertilizer to Egypt, thus bringing to 70,000 tons the quantity of fertilizer to be exported to Egypt this year. Negotiations are in course with other foreign clients for deliveries to be made next year, when Egypt will definitely receive 75,000 tons and France 70,000 tons of fertilizer. Next year's plans also call for the continuation of fertilizer exports to Western Germany.

NEW CABLE RAILWAY SYSTEM IN AUSTRIA. A 7216-foot long cable railway is now being built on the 4742-foot high Schoeckl near Graz according to a new engineering technique invented by the Salzburg engineer Dr. Georg Wallmannsberger. The railway will be constructed on the chair car principle, with small gondola-like cars having a seating capacity of 4 persons hanging on the continuously-moving cables. Each gondola is automatically unlatched as soon as it reaches the station and

5/20

shun  
After  
shif  
stru  
tem,  
trac  
the  
cons  
Swit  
in t

COMP  
FILE  
slow  
coun  
the  
so a  
9, D  
York

13,  
that  
citi  
rall

LATE  
cens  
that  
ever  
cens  
was  
Nach  
of p  
the  
the  
today  
On t  
and  
does  
amou  
part  
the  
crea

popu  
752,  
itan

ENRO  
numb  
tuti  
comp  
tion  
year  
1947  
expr  
yout  
this  
the  
in 1  
12.0  
niti

demi  
majo  
tion  
incr

MODE  
of m  
tinc  
shor  
mode  
abil



shunted to a rail so that passengers may comfortably get on and off. After the passengers have alighted or boarded the car, the gondola is shifted back to the moving cable. The cost of this cable railway construction is considerably smaller than for the dual gondola type system, because, as a result of the load distribution, the carrier and traction cables need only be one fourth as thick in cross section as the cables used heretofore. Similar cable railways are also being constructed on the Villach Alp and the "Stubener Kogel" near Gastein. Switzerland, France and Norway have already shown a marked interest in the new Austrian patent.

COMPENSATION CLAIMS FOR AUSTRIAN PROPERTY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA TO BE FILED BY JUNE 15, 1949. Austrian citizens who own property in Czechoslovakia and have not yet filed their compensation claims against that country with the proper Austrian authorities in Vienna or direct with the Austrian Legation in Prague, are herewith advised that they may do so at the Austrian Legation, 1706 Twenty First Street, N.W., Washington 9, D.C., or at the Austrian Consulate General, 683 Fifth Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., by June 15, 1949, at the latest.

This applies to all persons who were citizens of Austria on March 13, 1938, even if they have become citizens of another country after that date. Claims must also be filed by persons who acquired Austrian citizenship after April 27, 1945, either by birth, marriage or naturalization.

LATEST CENSUS FIGURES. According to the population and occupation census taken on October 10, 1948, Austria had 6,952,744 inhabitants on that day. Of these, 3,229,591 were men and 3,723,153 women. For every 100 men there are therefore in Austria 115 women. (In 1910, the census had shown 102 women for every 100 men and in 1939, the relation was 106 women to every 100 men). The April issue of the "Statistische Nachrichten" published some interesting facts about the distribution of population in the various federal states. Whereas in 1939, 29% of the total population was living in Vienna and 20% in Lower Austria, the figures of October 10, 1948 showed that Vienna and Lower Austria today have only 25% and 18% respectively of the country's population. On the other hand, the population in Upper Austria has increased by 2% and that of Salzburg, Styria and Vorarlberg each by 1%. The report does state that, as compared to the year 1946, there is a certain amount of return migration from Western Austria back to the Eastern part of the country, although the fact remains that, as compared to the pre-war period, the population of Vienna and Lower Austria has decreased and that of the other federal states has increased.

According to the figures available at the rationing boards, the population of Vienna on March 13, 1949 was 1,743,445. Of these, 752,970 or 43% were men. On that date, Vienna had 17,118 more inhabitants than in March 1948.

ENROLMENT IN AUSTRIA'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION. The total number of students enrolled in Austria's universities and other institutions of higher learning decreased by 224 students in 1947 - 48 as compared with 1946 - 47. The 1945 - 46 enrolment in the 13 institutions of higher education had been 26,767. In the succeeding academic year 1946 - 47, the number of students rose to 35,381 and in the year 1947 - 48 enrolment was 35,157. Many Austrian educational leaders had expressed the belief that Austria was training far too many of its youths for professional occupations. The most significant decline in this connection was the lower enrolment in the medical faculties of the three major universities, namely from 6,675 in 1946 - 47, to 6,117 in 1947 - 48, a decrease of 8.4%. There are already approximately 12,000 registered physicians in Austria, and many are seeking opportunities to emigrate to Abyssinia, South America, and other areas.

During the past school year enrolment also declined in the Academies of Music, Applied Arts, the Institute of Business, and the three major universities. On the other hand, the number of student registrations in the Technical, Mining, Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges increased.

MODERN LANGUAGES IN VIENNA SCHOOLS. A survey of the number and variety of modern language classes in the secondary schools of Vienna distinctly points to a disinterest in the Russian language and also to a shortage of Russian language teachers. Although the choice of the modern languages the students desire to study is voluntary, the availability of trained teachers in each particular school is nonetheless a



5/20

majo  
71 s  
clas  
inte  
clas

sec  
in V  
in  
This  
rolu  
48.

sche  
off

EMER  
AUS  
ria  
dif  
sit  
sche  
and  
imp

Geo  
tif  
hav  
amo  
Arc  
Vie  
of  
rat

NEW  
the  
for  
An  
jec  
wil  
var  
fro  
low  
be  
par  
Lab  
cou

IAE  
tic  
Ass  
fue  
18  
Ko  
per  
wh  
of  
ga  
fo  
mo  
of  
me

HO  
Ye  
by  
su  
Am  
ha  
ca  
Pa  
wa  
am  
be

5/20/49.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-7

major factor in their decisions. During the current school term, the 71 secondary schools of Vienna have a total of 724 foreign language classes. Only 5 of the schools (4 in the Soviet sector, and 1 in the international district) teach the Russian language; the 17 Russian classes have an approximate total enrolment of 500 pupils.

English, on the other hand, is taught in every one of the 71 secondary schools, in a total of 580 classes. Since the average class in Vienna schools has about 29 pupils, the total approximate enrolment in English classes throughout the city is therefore almost 17,000. This figure is the more impressive when compared with the total enrolment of 18,516 in all Vienna secondary schools in the year 1947 - 48.

French is likewise taught in almost all of Vienna's secondary schools with a total of 121 classes. Six Czech language classes are offered in 3 of the city's schools.

EMERGENCY COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS IN AUSTRIA. As the AUSTRIAN INFORMATION bulletin has repeatedly reported, most of Austria's scientific and cultural institutions are faced with financial difficulties since the end of the war and are often not even in a position to continue their scientific publications. Thus Austrian scholars and scientists of world repute cannot publish their findings and the exchange of publications with foreign research institutes is impossible.

In view of this extraordinarily serious situation, the Vienna Geographic Society has called an Emergency Council of Austria's scientific organizations, 40 of which, representing close to 40,000 members, have already responded by joining. The Emergency Council now includes, among others, the Medical Association, the Engineering Society, the Architects Association, the Zoological and Botanical Society, the Vienna Historical Society and the Geographic Society. The direction of the Emergency Council has been entrusted to Prof. Hassinger and Hofrat Becker.

NEW LABOR INSTITUTE IN VIENNA. According to the "Arbeiter-Zeitung", the Vienna Chamber of Labor has decided to establish a labor institute for the education and theoretical training of labor union officials. An initial sum of 2 million schillings has been earmarked for this project. Courses are scheduled to start this fall. The new institute will have at least a one-year resident curriculum. Every year, the various labor organizations will submit a list of proposed students from the ranks of their employees, honorary officials and junior-followers. These students will then, for the duration of their schooling, be divorced from their professional activities and become an integral part of the school community. During their training, the Chamber of Labor will provide support for them and their families. The main courses taught will be political economy, social science and civics.

LABOR FESTIVAL IN VIENNA. For the first time since the war, mass-participation festivities will be held at the Vienna Stadium by the Labor Association for Sport and Physical Culture in Vienna ("Arbeiterbund fuer Sport und Koerperkultur in Oesterreich - ASKOE) on June 16th and 18th under the honorary sponsorship of the Mayor of Vienna, General Koerner, and the Austrian Federation of Labor. Some three thousand performers and 1000 singers will participate. The ASKOE Festival, which reached their highpoint in the thirties when it attracted tens of thousands of spectators, is not only intended as a great sport gathering; its aim is also to reacquaint Vienna's workers with that form of culture which represents the creative essence of the labor movement, namely with the institution of the mass festival. The theme of this year's celebrations will be the development of the labor movement between the two World Wars.

HOLY YEAR PILGRIMS INVITED TO AUSTRIA. In connection with the Holy Year to be celebrated in 1950, Austria's bishops have been authorized by the Vatican to invite Rome pilgrims to visit Austria and to extend such invitations in 462 archdioceses of Great Britain, North and South America, and Australia. Thus for example, the Archdiocese of Chicago has urged all Rome pilgrims to make their trip through Austria. This campaign is all the more important, because in 1950 the Oberammergau Passion Plays will again be performed for the first time since the war. This Holy Year, which coincides with the resumption of the Oberammergau plays, offers an ideal opportunity for a visit to Austria, because Austria is on the main route of European travel and can readily





5/20/49

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION-8

be included in an itinerary with Rome as its destination. Indeed, it is impossible to go direct from Rome to Oberammergau without crossing Austria. For all details contact the AUSTRIAN STATE TOURIST DEPARTMENT, 48 East 48th Street, New York 17, N.Y. Telephone: Murray Hill 8-0355.

NEW HEALTH CENTER IN BADEN. In Baden-bell-Wien installation has begun on Europe's most modern health center with the expansion of the "Johannesbad". The center whose completion will require three million schillings is scheduled to be opened to the public in August. A large Research Institute for rheumatism will also be established as part of the center. This year's season in Baden began officially on May 1st with the opening of the reconstructed "Josefbad", the "Karlslinbad" and the large, completely-modernized "Thermalstrandbad". In the area of the city of Baden there are 15 sulfur springs which spout more than 6 million liters of mineral water daily at temperatures ranging up to 36 degrees C. Before the war, some 800,000 people sought cures at Baden every season.

HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN LOWER AUSTRIA IMPROVING. All school children in Lower Austria were again given medical examinations during 1948, the results of which have now been compiled and published. According to these statistics, 39 percent of the school children examined were still undernourished, as compared to 60 percent in 1946. The number of children menaced by tuberculosis dropped by 25 percent. Dental examinations showed that two thirds of the children still have defective teeth. In 1946, one third of all school children had no separate bed of their own; the latest figures show that this situation has somewhat improved. Although immediately after the war only about half of the children had a pair of shoes, today three fourths of them are provided with adequate footwear.

AUSTRIAN CANCER CONGRESS. The Austrian Society for Cancer Research and the Prevention of Cancer will hold its first international convention in Innsbruck on June 17th and 18th this year. Several reputed cancer specialists from Germany, France, Italy and Switzerland are expected to attend the congress both as lecturers and guests. Invitations to the meeting are being issued by Prof. W. Denk, M.D. (Vienna), Professors B. Breitner, M.D. and A. Hittmaier, M.D. (Innsbruck), as well as by Dr. J. Kretz, the present directors of the Austrian Cancer Research Society which was founded in 1910.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS INCREASE IN VIENNA. Traffic accidents in Vienna have taken a sharp rise recently, according to the latest official statistics released at the end of April. Whereas in 1946, 5,274 traffic accidents resulted in 4,069 cases of injury and 333 deaths, the year 1948 had a total of 7,918 accidents with 4,875 injuries and 238 deaths. The present weekly average is 150 accidents, more than four of which are fatal. The accidents recorded in 1948 resulted in the injury or death of 2,113 pedestrians, 1,571 drivers and 1,429 passengers. Of the 1948 accidents, 2,120 were caused by careless driving, 1,775 were attributed to heedless pedestrians, 1,147 were brought about by traffic violations and 824 accidents were the result of speeding.

It should be noted in this connection that 46,789 vehicles are registered in Vienna today as compared to only 45,627 in 1938. This rise is due primarily to the tremendous increase of trucks (1949: 19,465 as compared to only 9,148 in 1938), since the number of passenger cars and motorcycles has not yet reached the pre-war level. The year 1946 was the lowest vehicle registration year in Vienna with only 3,089 vehicles listed.

NEW AUSTRIAN STAMP IN HONOR OF THE U.N.I.C.E.F. The Austrian Postal and Telegraph Service has issued a commemorative stamp with a nominal value of 1 schilling without surtax, as an expression of gratitude for the assistance extended by the UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) to Austrian children during the first year of its activity in Austria. The special stamp of which one million have been printed went on sale May 10, 1949. The blue-green stamp pictures an Austrian schoolboy opening his arms to a Dove of Peace bringing him UNICEF help from the United Nations, symbolized by the laurel-wreathed globe. The commemorative stamp was designed by Prof. Josef Seger.

The funds collected by Austria in 1948 for the United Nations Appeal for Children put her in sixth place among the 26 European nati-

[Faint, mostly illegible text covering the majority of the page, appearing to be a document or report.]

5/2

on  
re  
ci

MA  
st  
of  
mo  
wa  
wa  
th  
sc

AI  
le  
in  
Ro  
ye  
of  
an  
ma

V  
bo  
o  
o  
V  
a  
b

F  
O  
F  
O  
K  
a  
c  
t  
z

n  
K  
c  
l  
h

A  
J



ons participating in the appeal, according to a UN report recently released by Secretary General Trygve Lie. Of the 76 countries participating, she now ranks eleventh.

MAX REINHARDT COMMEMORATION IN VIENNA. The "Theater an der Josefstadt" recently paid tribute to the memory of Austria's greatest man of the theater, Max Reinhardt, who has left a marked imprint on the modern theater and under whose direction the Josefstaedter Theater was established 25 years ago in its present stature. The occasion was the unveiling by Helene Thimig, his widow, of a Reinhardt bust at the entrance to the theater. The bust is the work of the Austrian sculptor Mario Petrucci.

ALBERTINA STAGES EXHIBITION IN SWITZERLAND. The "Albertina" Art Collection of Vienna is staging an exhibition of water colors and drawings by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele in the Copperplate Engraving Room of the Zurich Polytechnic Institute, in conjunction with this year's Zurich Festival. This exhibition which opened at the beginning of May, comprises the Albertina's entire collection of water colors and drawings by Egon Schiele, as well as most of the museum's Klimt masterpieces.

VIENNA TO CELEBRATE SCHOENBERG'S 75th BIRTHDAY. Vienna has already begun to make special preparations for the 75th birthday celebration of the famous Austrian composer Arnold Schoenberg on September 13th of this year. The main features of this Schoenberg celebration in Vienna will be a gala performance of the composer's "Gurre-Lieder" and a concert performance of his monodrama "Expectation". Mr. Schoenberg is now living in the United States.

FOREIGN GUEST APPEARANCES OF THE VIENNA STATE OPERA. The Vienna State Opera will participate from May 31st to June 8th in the May Music Festival to be held in Florence. Its program will include five Mozart operas and Mozart's Requiem, all under the direction of Prof. Josef Krips. A Vienna State Opera company will also present guest performances in Brussels from June 19th to July 5th. The program there will offer Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and "Abduction from the Seraglio" under the baton of Josef Krips, Richard Strauss' "Rosenkavalier" and Mozart's "Marriage of Figaro" under the direction of Karl Boehm.

These foreign tours will in no way interfere with the opera's regular season in Vienna. In addition to the Johann Strauss Festival performances, the Vienna State Opera will present four Richard Strauss operas in honor of the composer's 85th birthday in June. These will be "Salome" conducted by Klemens Kraus, "Ariadne" with Josef Krips, "Rosenkavalier" with Karl Boehm and "Elektra" under the baton of Rudolf Moralt.

The Metropolitan Opera baritone Alexander Sved will make several guest appearances at the State Opera in June, notably in the parts of Jochanaan in "Salome", Wolfram in "Tannhaeuser" and Tonio in "Pagliacci".

GUEST TOUR OF SALZBURG PUPPET THEATER IN ENGLAND. The famous Salzburg Puppet Theater which had given more than a thousand guest performances abroad before the war, will visit London, Cambridge and the Festival of Bath during its guest tour to Great Britain in May. Among the presentations to be given are "Bastien und Bastienne" by Mozart, the original version of "Faust", "The Dying Swan" and "Snow White". On their way to England, the Salzburg marionettes will visit Switzerland; in August they will be back in Salzburg for the Festival. The Salzburg Puppet Theater has received many international awards, among them a gold medal with a scroll of honor and the Paris medal awarded to it at the Paris International Exhibition of 1937.

BROADCAST RIGHTS FOR SALZBURG FESTIVALS. The exclusive broadcasting rights for this year's Salzburg Festivals (July 27th to August 31st) have been sold to the American radio station RIAS (in Berlin) for the sum of 300,000 schillings, according to a report of the Austrian Press Agency. News of this arrangement was greeted with a protest by the Austrian broadcasting company "Ravag" which complained that the Executive Committee of Austrian broadcasting networks had not been consulted on the matter.



5/20

PROG

-- (

Orch

Chur

July

Augu

Augu

Augu

Augu

(In

Chan

July

Augu

Augu

Augu

PROGRAM OF THIS YEAR'S SALZBURG FESTIVAL (JULY 27th - August 30th)

-- (continued from last issue) --.

Orchestra Serenades: On August 4th, 10th, 15th and 26th in the Rocky Riding School performed by the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra under the direction of Mr. Bernhard Paumgartner.

Church Music Concerts: (In the Aula Academica) --

July 31st: Emanuel D'Astorga: "Stabat Mater"; W.A. Mozart: "Coronation Mass"; soloists: M. Cunitz, E. Gifford, J. Patzak, H. Braun.

August 7th: G. Rossini: "Stabat Mater"; soloists: I. Seefried, R. Anday, L. Fehenberger, F. Frantz.

August 14th: J. Haydn: "The Creation"; soloists: M. Cebotari, W. Ludwig, P. Schoeffler.

August 21st: F. Schubert: "Great Mass in E-flat Major". A. Bruckner: "Tedeum"; soloists: St. Holeschovsky, F. Elsta, L. Fehenberger, L. Cordes-Dermota, G. Hann.

August 28th: W.A. Mozart: "Requiem"; soloists: H. Gueden, R. Anday, J. Patzak, F. Frantz; conductor: Joseph Messner with the Salzburg Cathedral Choir and the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra.

(In the Mozarteum) August 23rd: Cathedral Choir of Strassburg and the Mozarteum Orchestra; conductor: Abbé Hoch; H. Berlioz: "The Childhood of Christ"; soloists: I. Seefried, Soprano; Walter Ludwig, Tenor; Paul Schoeffler, Baritone; Josef Greindl, Bass; Jeanne Demessieux at the organ.

Chamber Concerts: (In the Mozarteum) --

July 29th: Pasquier Trio: Bach, Roussel, Schubert.

August 5th: Fischer-Mainardi-Schneiderhahn Trio: J. Brahms: Trio in C Major, op. 87; L. v. Beethoven: Trio in B-flat Major, opp. 11; F. Schubert: Trio in E-flat Major, op. 100.

August 13th: Schneiderhahn-Quartet: F. Schubert: String Quartet in E-flat Major, op. 125, No. 1; W.A. Mozart: String Quintet in G Minor; J. Brahms: Piano Quintet in F Minor, op. 34.

August 25th: Vienna Octet: F. Schubert: Forellen Quintet; E. Wellez: Octet (First Performance); F. Schubert: Octet in F Major, op. 166; soloist: Paul Schilhawski, Piano.

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

509 FIFTH AVENUE

AUSTRIAN CONSULATE GENERAL



GP 100-1000